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Cosmetic composition

This application claims foreign priority of Germany 19838851.9, filed 08/26/1988.
The present invention relates to a cosmetic composition which

- 5 comprises, in copolymerized form, at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible polymer.

In cosmetics, polymers with film-forming properties are used for setting, improving structure and styling hair. These

- 10 hair-treatment compositions generally comprise a solution of the film former in an alcohol or a mixture of alcohol and water.

Hair-setting compositions are generally sprayed onto the hair in the form of aqueous-alcoholic solutions. After the solvent has
15 evaporated, the hair is held in the desired shape at the mutual points of contact by the polymer which remains. The polymers should firstly be hydrophilic so that they can be washed out of the hair, but secondly should be hydrophobic so that the hair treated with the polymers retains its shape even when atmospheric
20 humidity is high and does not stick together. In order to achieve as efficient a hair-setting action as possible, it is furthermore desirable to use polymers which have a relatively high molecular weight and a relatively high glass transition temperature (at least 15°C).

- 25 Another current demand on hair-treatment compositions is that they should impart to the hair a natural appearance and shine even, for example, when the hair concerned is by its very nature particularly strong and/or dark.

- 30 A disadvantage of many known hair-setting polymers is the so-called "flaking" effect, i.e. after combing, a white, flaky residue remains on the hair. This is generally considered by users to be extremely unpleasant. The "flaking" effect is
35 particularly evident in people with a dark hair color and/or particularly thick hair. The possibility of using hair-setting formulations which have this effect is thus considerably impaired in particular in the Asian market. Possible causes of the "flaking" effect are regarded inter alia as the chemical
40 structure of the hair-setting polymers used and, in particular, the particle size of the spray. In addition to the abovementioned properties, hair-setting polymers should therefore preferably have high propellant gas compatibility in order to permit formulation in spray cans under the highest possible pressure.
45 This is true both for classical propellants based on